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(54) Title: INTERBODY DEVICE AND METHOD FOR TREATMENT OF OSTEOPOROTIC VERTEBRAL COLLAPSE

(57) Abstract

The present invention is an apparatus for repairing a collapsed space within vertebral bodies. The apparatus includes an introducer (20) including an elongate member having proximal, distal ends, and defining a longitudinal bore. The elongate member includes a threaded portion adjacent the distal end, being configured for insertion into vertebral bodies to facilitate mounting of the elongate member to the vertebral bodies, and a catheter at least partially positioned within the longitudinal bore of the elongate members of the introducer (20). The catheter includes a catheter body member having proximal, and distal ends, an inflation lumen extending along at least a portion of the catheter body, and an expandable membrane adjacent the distal end of the catheter body member in fluid communication with the inflation lumen. The expandable membrane is extendible beyond the distal end of the introducer (20), and positioned between the vertebral bodies. The expandable membrane is expandable in response to inflation fluids conveyed by the inflation lumen to exert a force on the vertebral bodies to achieve a desired spacing therewith. A method of reforming a collapsed vertebra utilizing the apparatus is also disclosed.

